

**DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION  
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 205  
3 CAPITOL HILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016  
8:45 AM**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**Board Members in Attendance**

**Dr Nancy Bisci Iacono**

**Dr. Louise Di Chiara Pastore**

**Dr. Dena Hall**

**Dr. Maria Sampalis**

**Board Members not in Attendance**

**Staff Members in Attendance**

**Peter J. Ragosta - Chief Administrator Officer**

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

**1. A quorum was establishment at 8:45 a.m.**

**A meeting of the RI Board of Optometry was held on March 9, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 205, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. on a motion by Dr. Dena Hall-Cassidy and seconded by Dr. Maria Sampalis. Motion carried.**

**1. Presentation of the October 7, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes  
Motion was made at 8:48am by Dr. Louise DiChiara, seconded by Dr. Nancy Iacono to accept the Open Session minutes of October 7, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

**2. Chief Administrative Officer Report**

**a. Practice topics will be discussed at future meetings and Dr. Dena Hall will provide topics for the next meeting to be held on June 15, 2016.**

**b. CAO suggests that Board take a look at the current regulations and look for areas that need to be updated as well as look for opportunities to add new regulations that may positively affect the**

**profession of optometry and benefit public health at the same time. CAO suggests seeking out national trends and benchmarking with other states.**

### **3. Old Business**

**None**

### **4. New Business**

#### **a. Optometry Practice Topics – Dr. Pastore**

**i. Managing Patients with multiple diseases was discussed and optometrists play an important role; they need patient history to provide optimal care.**

**ii. Communication with primary care physicians (PCPs)- it was agreed upon by the Board that this needs to be standard practice and it is important that PCPs share the EHR for their patients.**

**iii. Contact lenses and other non-covered services: it was discussed that not all services are reimbursed and this can possibly have a negative impact on public health. Optometrists are treated as specialists in most cases by the insurance companies; that leads to high co-pays. Insurance companies do not reimburse much for routine eye examinations and the public might think they are fully covered for these services when in fact they are not. Diabetes screenings by optometrists may be covered for once a year examinations but not by all insurances.**

## **5. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Dr. Dena Hall and seconded by Dr. Iacono to adjourn to Closed Session at 9 am. Motion carried.**

**Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.**

## **6. Motion to return to Open Session**

**Motion was made by Dr. Dena Hall and seconded by Dr. Louise Pastore at 9:32 a.m. to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.**

## **7. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session**

**The Board voted on zero (1) case and continued one (1) case.**

## **8. Adjournment**

**The next Rhode Island Board of Optometry meeting will be held March 9, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 205, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Dr. Iacono and seconded by Dr. Louise Pastore to adjourn at 9:34 a.m. Motion carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Peter Ragosta**

**Peter J. Ragosta, RPh.**

**Chief Administrative Officer**

**RI Board of Optometry**